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TWO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES, NINE OTHERS
CHARGED WITH FRAUD

SAVANNAH, GA: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that the federal grand jury sitting in Savannah has returned an indictment against eleven individuals for fraud in connection with their involvement in processing falsified patient reimbursement checks.

Betty Ann Baker and Kadesia Golden (who were both employed by Memorial Health University Medical Center), Joquina Williams, Joy Jackson, Mayico Golden, Melissa Frazier, Michelle Scott, Ryan Ledbetter, Lenwood Porter, Tameka Potter, and Kenneth Jackson were charged in a forty-one count indictment with Conspiracy in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and Bank Fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344. Baker and Golden were also charged with Making False Statements Relating to a Health Care Matter in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1035. Baker was also charged with Falsely Representing a Social Security Number in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 408.

The indictment charges that in or about April 2004, the defendants began a scheme to obtain money belonging to Memorial Hospital by cashing fraudulent checks on the Hospital's Wachovia bank account. Specifically, the indictment alleges that Baker used her employment as a refund specialist at the hospital to submit refund check request vouchers for Medicare, Medicaid and private pay accounts in which there had been an overpayment. The indictment alleges that Baker knowingly caused fraudulent checks to be created in her name, and the names of co-defendants, totaling over \$125,000. The indictment alleges that the defendants then cashed the fraudulent checks at local financial institutions. If convicted, the defendants face a statutory maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000,000.

Wood emphasized that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Wood praised the joint efforts of Special Agent William Griffin and the United States Secret Service and Detective Bob Chandler and the Savannah Chatham Police Department which led to the indictment.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorney Brian F. McEvoy.

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